



**TOWN OF ACTON**  
**HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**  
**472 MAIN STREET**  
**ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS, 01720**  
**[hdc@acton-ma.gov](mailto:hdc@acton-ma.gov)**

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February 3, 2016

Re: Acton Congregational Church CPC Applications

To Whom It May Concern,

The Acton Congregational Church (ACC) has submitted two applications to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for funding and on December 1<sup>st</sup>, the Chairman of their Board of Trustees, David Clough, met with the Acton Historic District Commission (HAC) to review these applications.

The first application is a request funding for a Master Plan Study focused on the preservation of the three properties that the ACC owns and maintains, all of which are in the District. Recent applications by the ACC to the HDC for maintenance issues have clearly illustrated to the HDC that two of the properties (both the main church building and the Abner House at 20 Concord Road) have ongoing building envelope issues that extend beyond simple maintenance. Although the HDC has not recently reviewed an application that involved the Fletcher House at 8 Concord Road, it is obvious that it would also benefit from inclusion in the Master Plan study. To ensure preservation of these structures, the clear guidelines that result from a Master Plan study evaluating their structure, cladding, windows, insulation and building systems will be essential.

The second request for CPC funding is for the restoration and preservation of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary, some of which can be seen from Concord Road. The window restoration project involves removal of the aging plastic cover originally installed to protect the windows but which is instead causing moisture damage to the wood window frames and to the lead matrix. The stained glass would then be restored, the wood frames repaired and ventilated laminated glass would be installed to protect them for the next generation.

The HDC expresses support for both of the CPC funding applications submitted by the Acton Congregational Church. Our recent interactions with the Church make it clear that they consider the stewardship of their historic properties an important part of their work here in Acton. The entire community will benefit immediately from the removal of the now obscure plastic that covers the stained glass windows. And, a long term benefit comes from giving the ACC the means to undergo the master plan, providing a renovation and maintenance strategy for its structures that can preserve their historical integrity while adapting them for 21<sup>st</sup> century use.

Sincerely,

Anita Rogers  
Member, Historic District Commission

Cc: Community Preservation Committee, Board of Selectman, Historical Commission, Planning Department, Building Department, Department of Municipal Properties, Acton Congregational Church.